



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

August 31, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The tragic consequences of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Louisiana are emerging hour by hour. Although we are only beginning to understand the extent of the damage to people and property, there is no doubt that we are facing a humanitarian disaster. Relief efforts require a national mobilization and our Armed Forces are already playing a central role.

I write at this moment to urge you to consider making our military installations around the nation available to accept the Americans displaced and left homeless by this disaster. The facilities at many of our Active, Guard and Reserve installations, ordinarily unused or used only for transient personnel or units, could be made suitable for the temporary housing of what may prove to be hundred of thousands of people.

I appreciate your consideration of this recommendation and for everything that our military is doing to bring relief to our citizens during this national emergency.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson